(c) whether it is also a fact that the Government has identified a new site for Uranium mining in Shillong but is unable to carry out the work under the fear that Uranium mining is dangerous for the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir. Uranimum Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), has decided in principle to start Uranium mining in the Domiasiat area in Meghalaya, for which various pre-project activities like preparation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)/Environment Management Plan (EMP) report, Detailed Project Report (DPR) etc. have been initiated and application for mining lease has been submitted to the State Government.

(b) The proposal is to open a most modern open-pit mine at Domiasiat with adequate safety measures in all stages of operation from any possible radiation and due attention to protect environment around the site.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Investment crunch in the mining sector

853. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the investment crunch in the mining sector which is likely to lead to shortage of coal production and other minerals in the next 10 years; and

(b) the details of steps are being taken by the Government infuse fresh investment to meet the projected demand for coal and other minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Ministry of Coal has intimated that in relation to the target of production set for Coal India Limited (CIL) during the X Plan period, the funds with the company are adequate. However, the requirement of investment to meet the entire demand of coal in the country is high. The Government has introduced a Bill in Parliament to allow private sector participation in coal sector for attracting more private sector investments.

The non-fuel and non-atomic mineral sector have been thrown open to private investment and therefore commercial exploitation take place as per economic viability of the mineral concerned. There has been no reports of financial crunch in this area.

Wind power capacity in India

854. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the wind power capacity in India.

(b) the policy of the Government to encourage exploration of this avenue by 2007; and

(c) the role of Indian Wind Energy Association in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) A wind power capacity aggregating 2074 MW has been installed so far in the country.

(b) The gross wind power potential in the country has been estimated at about 45,000 MW. The technical potential, which can be tapped at present is, however, limited to about 13,390 MW. A wind power capacity addition of 1500 MW is envisaged during the 10th Plan.

(c) The Indian Wind Energy Association is one among the several wind energy associations involved in wind power related issues in the country. However, only the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai has been implementing the Wind Resource Assessment Programme of the Government in association with the State Nodal Agencies.

Creating non-conventional energy Sources

855. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is giving special preference for creating Non-Conventional Energy Sources in every State, if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(b) whether Non–conventional Energy Sources are economical and less expensive; and

(c) whether it could reach the remote areas?